

We claim:

- 5 1. The use of TNF antagonists for producing drugs for treating those septic disorders where the serum level of interleukin-6 increases in a measurement period of at least thirty minutes.
- 10 2. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the serum level of interleukin-6 is 500 pg/ml and above in the measurement period.
- 15 3. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein the measurement period is 4 - 10 hours.
- 20 4. The use as claimed in claim 1, wherein an F(ab')<sub>2</sub> fragment of a monoclonal anti-TNF antibody is used as TNF antagonist.
- 25 5. A commercial pack comprising a TNF antagonist together with instructions for the use of this TNF antagonist for treating septic disorders where the serum level of IL-6 increases in a measurement period of at least thirty minutes.
6. A commercial pack as claimed in claim 5, wherein a monoclonal anti-TNF antibody is used as TNF antagonist.
- 30 7. A method for establishing whether a patient suffering from sepsis is to be treated with TNF antagonists, which comprises the following steps:
  - (a) determination of the serum level of interleukin-6 in the patient at a first time  $t_1$
  - 35 (b) determination of the serum level of interleukin-6 at a second time  $t_2$  which is at least 30 minutes after the first time  $t_1$ , and determination of the ratio
  - 40 
$$V = \frac{\text{IL-6 level } (t_2)}{\text{IL-6 level } (t_1)}$$
  - 45 (c) treatment with TNF antagonists in the case where  $V > 1$ .

The use of TNF antagonists as drugs for treating septic disorders

5 Abstract

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ab* TNF antagonists are used to produce drugs for treating septic disorders where the serum level of interleukin-6 increases in a measurement period of at least thirty minutes.

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